



The Avon River and Avon Terrace

Ensign Robert Dale first sighted the Avon River on 7 August 1830 during one of his preliminary explorations eastwards of the Swan River settlement. The first use of the name “Avon” by Dale was in his journal of 28 October 1830 during a later visit to the region accompanied by Governor Stirling. It is probable that Stirling chose the name given his Scottish heritage. A River Avon flows south of Stirling and to the East of Glasgow in Scotland, with Governor Stirling coming from that region. The word “Avon” also comes from the word “Afon” meaning river. It is also possible that the choice may have been suggested prior to the Governor’s visit as it may have been used by James Henty who carried out his own examination of the region also in October 1830.

The selection of the name of the main street of York as “Avon Terrace” is not clearly recorded. Dictionaries show the meanings of the word **terrace** to include “a nearly level strip of land with a more or less abrupt descent along the margin of the sea, a lake, or a river”, so its use is appropriate. Early maps of York from 1842 and 1849 show the words **Avon Terrace** though these could have been overwritten at a later date as is often the case with additions and subtractions being made to these very early maps without the amendments being dated.

Newspapers do not start to record the address until 1871 with the formation of the York Roads Board and the York Municipal Council. The first Council Meeting in York in 1871 records the need to repair damage to **Avon Terrace** and the planting of trees at a combined cost of £10.

Electric street lighting in the business area was installed in 1910.

The main business section of the Terrace was bituminized in 1930 at a cost of £2000, requiring the Council to take out a loan. Until this time the road was regularly watered to reduce dust.

Parallel parking replaced angle parking in 1954 when large trucks were causing problems by parking on the Terrace.

In 1966 the York Shire Council began moves to order the removal of post supported verandahs in Avon Terrace for safety and aesthetic reasons. By 1968 most had been removed and replaced by cantilever verandahs. This action resulted in the formation of the York Society which formed to support the preservation and restoration of buildings of historic, architectural and aesthetic importance along with the preservation of scenery within and around the township which contributed to the traditional character of York.

Other Streets of York can be read at www.theyorksociety.com